

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9532

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, US, WB, FR, UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET ORAL STATEMENT ON BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM
MEETING IN BERLIN

REF: (A) MOSCOW 46; (B) MOSCOW 73; (C) BERLIN 16

1. RECENT SOVIET ORAL STATEMENT ON BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM
MEETING IN BERLIN DISCUSSED AT JANUARY 4 BONN GROUP
MEETING. FONOFF AND ALLIED REPS AGREED PROMPT, FIRM
REPLY SHOULD BE SENT, WITH FRENCH REP (PAYE) PARTICULAR-
LY CONCERNED THAT SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF QA ANNEX II,
PARA 2 BE REFUTED. US REP AGREED, STRESSING THAT HE
BELIEVED ALLIES SHOULD PROCEED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT
IN CASES INVOLVING FEDERAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN, WHAT THE
QA DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBIT IS PERMITTED. UK REP
SUPPORTED THESE REMARKS, NOTING THAT THE LETTER FROM
THE ALLIED AMBASSADORS TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR CON-
CERNING ANNEX II COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR ALLIED REPLY.
IT WAS THEREUPON AGREED TO HAVE UK SIDE PREPARE INITIAL
DRAFT REPLY FOR BONN GROUP CONSIDERATION.

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2. FONOFF REP (LUECKING) THANKED OTHERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT, NOTING HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD FAVOR COURSE OUTLINED ABOVE. HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF SOVIET COMPLAINT AS NOVEMBER 23 INTERVIEW BY BUNDESTAG VICE-PRESIDENT SCHMIDT-VOCKENHAUSEN. LUECKING SAID THERE HAD INDEED BEEN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG PRESIDUM MEMBERS (FRAU RENGEL AND FOUR BUNDESTAG VICE-PRESIDENTS) CONCERNING A JANUARY 28 MEETING IN BERLIN WHILE ALL WOULD BE ATTENDING GREEN WEEK FESTIVITIES IN BERLIN, BUT THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED. LUECKING SAID SOVIETS IN ERROR ON COUNCIL OF ELDERS MEETING WHICH HAD NOT BEEN SLATED FOR BERLIN IN JANUARY. HAVING CHECKED WITH THE BUNDESTAG, LUECKING CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDUM HAD MET IN BERLIN FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST, BUT IN EACH CASE PRIOR TO QA.

3. LUECKING THEN REPORTED ON MEETING BETWEEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN AND FONOFF STATE SECRETARY SACHS IN BONN JANUARY 2 (REF B). FALIN HAD OPENED DISCUSSION BY REVIEWING SOVIET ARGUMENTS ALONG LINES NOTE REF A, COMMENTING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES HARMFUL TO "SPIRIT OF DETENTE." SACHS REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER FALIN'S APPROACH BASICALLY AS INFORMATION, INASMUCH AS ALLIES WERE OF COURSE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLICATION OF QA; THAT FRG WOULD STUDY SOVIET REMARKS; THAT THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS SIMPLY DID NOT PLAN A JANUARY MEETING IN BERLIN; AND THAT FALIN SHOULD UNDERSTAND BOTH THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND THE PRESIDUM WERE "PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES." (LUECKING EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDUM'S ONLY FUNCTION WAS TO APPOINT AND DISMISS CIVIL SERVANTS OF "BEAMTENLEITER" RANK AND HIGHER.)

4. ALLIED AND FRG REPS AGREED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING PRESS QUERIES WOULD BE ANSWERED WITH NO COMMENT, BUT THAT THIS LINE COULD BE CHANGED IF SUBSTANTIAL DETAILS OF SOVIET PROTEST LEAKED TO THE PRESS.
HILLENBRAND

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